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FIELD DEPARTMENT NOTES

CENTRAL WEST DEPARTMENT

THE largest meeting ever undertaken by the Chicago peace forces was held at the Auditorium Theater July 22, the occasion being the return of Miss Addams from her peace pilgrimage to the capitals of the warring countries of Europe. It was estimated that the audience aggregated 4,000.

The secretary has been employing part of his time in writing his impressions of the European situation. The following articles by the Secretary have recently appeared: "Peace Currents in Germany"—*Christian Work* for July 3; "The Women's Peace Crusade"—*Christian Work* for July 10; "The International Congress of Women"—*ADVOCATE OF PEACE* for July. Two articles in the *Northwestern Christian Advocate* are also to appear at an early date.

On Sunday evening, June 27, the secretary addressed the Men's Club at the Congregational Church of Brookfield, Ill., on the issues of the present war, and on July 5 spoke at the Valley City, No. Dak., Chautauqua before an audience of 1,300.

A luncheon was recently given at the Union League Club in honor of Mr. H. S. Perris, of London, representing the British Peace Centenary Committee and Secretary of the Sulgrave Board, and Mr. John H. Stewart, of New York. The luncheon was given under the auspices of the Chicago group of the American Peace Centenary Committee, the chairman and secretary of which are president and secretary, respectively, of the Chicago Peace Society.

SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES DEPARTMENT

The field work of the department has been restricted during the past month mostly to work in Atlanta and vicinity. Arrangements are being made for visits to Florida and North Carolina, and possibly Virginia.

Senator Ransom, chairman of the committee on State education, has introduced in the Georgia legislature a resolution for the recognition of Peace Day in all of the public schools of the State on May 18 of each year, or the nearest school day to that date, by some appropriate exercise of not less than one hour. The resolution has the approval of the governor and the support of Hon. M. L. Brittain, State superintendent of public instruction. It has been passed by the senate, and is now before the house.

The secretary during the last month has given articles on the following subjects to the press: "The New Patriotism," "Fourth of July Reflections," "America, the World's Debtor," and "The Call for Peace."

Addresses were given by the secretary during the last month at the following places: the National Congress of the B. Y. P. U. (colored), where many representatives from different parts of the South were in attendance; the First Methodist Church of Atlanta, on "The Prince of Peace," and Borden-Wheeler Springs, on experiences of the secretary in the European war zone.

Since his last report Dr. Hall has also distributed some fifty copies of *THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE* and sent to this office the names of nearly forty new members or renewals.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907, accompanied by Tables and Signatures, Ratifications and Adhesions of the various Powers, and Texts of Reservations. By James Brown Scott. 259 pp. and introduction and index.

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, through the instrumentality of Dr. James Brown Scott, has performed a timely and valuable work in the preparation of this volume. Herein we find the English text of all the conventions, peaceful and warlike, of The Hague Conferences of 1899 and 1907. The peace conventions of those years are given in parallel columns, facilitating comparison between their respective provisions. We are also able to determine incidentally what nations have ratified or adhered to each of the several conventions, and what reservations have been made in any case, and whether they were made at the time of signature, adhesion or ratification.

The text of the volume is preceded by a very useful preface, stating its purposes. An introduction gives in a few words the history of the origin of the two conferences, including the diplomatic correspondence immediately preceding them, and like matters of import.

At the present time, when international agreements are so much under discussion, this volume, possessing as it does almost an official character, its most important data having been checked up by our State Department and by the Minister of Foreign Affairs at The Hague, is timely and of instant value.

Many writers have hastily assumed, finding a given provision in the conventions, that it was equally binding upon all the contestants in the present world war, although all nations have not equally given ratification or adhesion. As we know, many provisions contained in the conventions had earlier sanction in international law, and The Hague Con-

ventions were as to them merely declaratory. When, however, we treat the conventions, as we may, as contracts, and charge their violation we should know whereof we speak. Enough specific violations have occurred. We need not declaim over doubtful ones. We may, through the aid of this volume, cease unnecessarily to blacken the picture by charging erroneously, as we have in many cases, specific violation of contractual obligations. In this and many other ways the volume we are considering makes toward exactness of knowledge.

JACKSON H. RALSTON.

International Ties. By Mary McArthur Tuttle. Hillsboro, Ohio. 32 pp.

This is an informing observation of domestic, social, and political facts of definite periods in definite countries, the whole permeated by a thread of narrative. The style is not hortatory, but it succeeds in leading the reader to reflect in international terms.

The Last War. By Frederick Lynch. New York: Fleming H. Revell Co. 118 pp. Price, 75 cents net.

That the war now devastating Europe must be the last war, that it is the duty of all Christians to preach this constantly, and that it is only the conventional Christianity which has failed is the theme of Dr. Lynch's latest book. The main reason for the apparent downfall of Christianity, he asserts, is that it has failed to believe and teach that "they that take the sword shall perish by the sword." It is argued that the churches need better to know what is their duty and mission. A plea is made for national defense, not by armaments, but by character and arbitration treaties. The moral and economic effects which are now accruing are discussed by Dr. Lynch.